

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus which can communicate with an external information processing apparatus via a network, comprising:

5       managing means for managing fixed identification information fixedly added to said external information processing apparatus and variable identification information variably added to the external information processing apparatus;

10       obtaining means for obtaining the fixed identification information and the variable identification information via the network from the external information processing apparatus which can be communicated with;

15       discriminating means for discriminating whether the fixed identification information obtained by said obtaining means coincides with the fixed identification information managed by said managing means or not and whether the variable identification

20       information obtained by said obtaining means coincides with the variable identification information managed by said managing means or not; and

      changing means for changing a setting of a  
25       control program for controlling the external information processing apparatus having said fixed identification information on the basis of the

variable identification information obtained by said  
obtaining means if said discriminating means  
determines that although the fixed identification  
information obtained by said obtaining means  
5 coincides with the fixed identification information  
managed by said managing means, the variable  
identification information obtained by said obtaining  
means does not coincide with the variable  
identification information managed by said managing  
10 means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said obtaining means repetitively obtains the  
fixed identification information and the variable  
15 identification information corresponding to a  
peripheral device which is detachable to/from said  
network from said network, and  
said discriminating means executes the  
discriminating process in response to the execution  
20 of the obtaining process in said obtaining means.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein  
said managing means manages the fixed  
identification information and the variable  
25 identification information, as a list, of said  
external information processing apparatus which can  
be communicated with via said network, and

said discriminating means executes the discriminating process by discriminating whether the variable identification information and the fixed identification information obtained by said obtaining means exist in said list or not in response to the obtainment of the fixed identification information and the variable identification information of said external information processing apparatus by said obtaining means.

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4. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said obtaining means issues a search request to said external information processing apparatus and obtains the fixed identification information and the variable identification information added to said external information processing apparatus which can be communicated with, and

said apparatus further comprises job control means for controlling a job process in a manner such that in the case where a response to the request from said obtaining means is obtained and in the case where said discriminating means determines that although the fixed identification information included in the response obtained by said obtaining means coincides with the fixed identification information managed by said managing means, the variable identification information obtained by said

obtaining means does not coincide with the variable identification information managed by said managing means, said changing means changes the setting of the control program for controlling the external

5 information processing apparatus having said fixed identification information by using said variable identification information, thereafter, the job process is controlled so as to request said external information processing apparatus to execute a job,

10 and if the response from said obtaining means cannot be obtained, the job process is controlled so as not to request the execution of said job.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

15 when the fixed identification information added to said search request coincides with the fixed identification information set in said external information processing apparatus, or when the variable identification information added to said

20 search request coincides with the variable identification information assigned to said external information processing apparatus, said external information processing apparatus makes a response including the variable identification information or

25 the fixed identification information corresponding to said external information processing apparatus to the information processing apparatus which issued said

search request, and

said obtaining means enters a mode for waiting for obtainment of said response to said search request.

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6. A method in an information processing apparatus which can communicate with an external information processing apparatus via a network, comprising:

10 a managing step of managing fixed identification information fixedly added to said external information processing apparatus and variable identification information variably added to the external information processing apparatus;

15 an obtaining step of obtaining the fixed identification information and the variable identification information via the network from the external information processing apparatus which can be communicated with;

20 a discriminating step of discriminating whether the fixed identification information obtained in said obtaining step coincides with the fixed identification information managed in said managing step or not and whether the variable identification  
25 information obtained in said obtaining step coincides with the variable identification information managed in said managing step or not; and

a changing step of changing a setting of a control program for controlling the external information processing apparatus having said fixed identification information on the basis of the

5 variable identification information obtained in said obtaining step if it is determined in said discriminating step that although the fixed identification information obtained in said obtaining step coincides with the fixed identification

10 information managed in said managing step, the variable identification information obtained in said obtaining step does not coincide with the variable identification information managed in said managing step.

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7. A method according to claim 6, wherein in said obtaining step, the fixed identification information and the variable identification information corresponding to a

20 peripheral device which is detachable to/from said network are repetitively obtained from said network, and

in said obtaining step, the discriminating process in said discriminating step is executed in

25 response to the execution of the obtaining process.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein

in said managing step, the fixed identification information and the variable identification information of said external information processing apparatus which can be communicated with via said  
5 network are managed as a list, and

the discriminating process in said discriminating step is executed by discriminating whether the variable identification information and the fixed identification information obtained in said  
10 obtaining step exist in said list or not in response to the obtainment of the fixed identification information and the variable identification information of said external information processing apparatus in said obtaining step.

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9. A method according to claim 6, wherein in said obtaining step, a search request is issued to said external information processing apparatus and the fixed identification information  
20 and the variable identification information added to said external information processing apparatus which can be communicated with are obtained, and

said method further comprises a job control step of controlling a job process in a manner such  
25 that in the case where a response to the request from said obtaining step is obtained and in the case where it is determined in said discriminating step that

although the fixed identification information included in the response obtained in said obtaining step coincides with the fixed identification information managed in said managing step, the  
5 variable identification information obtained in said obtaining step does not coincide with the variable identification information managed in said managing step, in said changing step, the setting of the control program for controlling the external  
10 information processing apparatus having said fixed identification information is changed by using said variable identification information, thereafter, the job process is controlled so as to request said external information processing apparatus to execute  
15 a job, and if the response from said obtaining step cannot be obtained, the job process is controlled so as not to request the execution of said job.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein  
20 when the fixed identification information added to said search request coincides with the fixed identification information set in said external information processing apparatus, or when the variable identification information added to said  
25 search request coincides with the variable identification information assigned to said external information processing apparatus, said external



information processing apparatus makes a response including the variable identification information or the fixed identification information corresponding to said external information processing apparatus to the  
5 information processing apparatus which issued said search request, and

said obtaining step enters a mode for waiting for obtainment of said response to the issue of said search request.

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11. A computer-readable memory medium which stores a control program that is executed in an information processing apparatus which can communicate with an external information processing  
15 apparatus via a network, wherein said program allows said information processing apparatus to execute:

a managing step of managing fixed identification information fixedly added to said external information processing apparatus and  
20 variable identification information variably added to the external information processing apparatus;

an obtaining step of obtaining the fixed identification information and the variable identification information via the network from the  
25 external information processing apparatus which can be communicated with;

a discriminating step of discriminating whether

the fixed identification information obtained in said  
obtaining step coincides with the fixed  
identification information managed in said managing  
step or not and whether the variable identification  
5 information obtained in said obtaining step coincides  
with the variable identification information managed  
in said managing step or not; and

a changing step of changing a setting of the  
control program for controlling the external  
10 information processing apparatus having said fixed  
identification information on the basis of the  
variable identification information obtained in said  
obtaining step if it is determined in said  
discriminating step that although the fixed  
15 identification information obtained in said obtaining  
step coincides with the fixed identification  
information managed in said managing step, the  
variable identification information obtained in said  
obtaining step does not coincide with the variable  
20 identification information managed in said managing  
step.

12. A network system including an external  
information processing apparatus and an information  
25 processing apparatus, wherein

said external information processing apparatus  
has notification control means for controlling a

process for notifying a predetermined common network  
address of set variable identification information  
and fixed identification information when said set  
variable identification information is changed or at  
5 predetermined time intervals,

said information processing apparatus has:  
managing means for making variable  
identification information and fixed identification  
information obtained from a network correspond to  
10 each other and managing them as a set;

obtaining means for executing a process for  
repetitively obtaining the variable identification  
information and the fixed identification information  
which are notified from said external information  
15 processing apparatus; and

discriminating means for discriminating whether  
a set of the variable identification information  
obtained by said obtaining means and the fixed  
identification information obtained by said obtaining  
20 means differs from the set of the variable  
identification information and the fixed  
identification information which is managed by said  
managing means or not in response to the process for  
obtaining the variable identification information and  
25 the fixed identification information which are  
notified from said external information processing  
apparatus in said obtaining means.